

PRISONER SENT BANDIT TO HIS DEATH

Tom Slaughter, 'the Killer,'
Shot by One of Six Con-
victs He Helped Free.

MADE MANY ESCAPES

Notorious Outlaw Served
First Sentence When
14 Years Old.

LAST BREAK HIS UNDOING

Slain While Lying in Wait
to Shoot Posse—Body Sent to
Little Rock, Ark.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 17.—A prison
escape, ending with a bullet from the
night, brought to a close the long career
of crime by which Tom Slaughter was
known throughout the Southwest as "the
Killer."

The target of one of six men he had
liberated, a few hours before, from the
Arkansas penitentiary at Little Rock,
the desperado died as he had lived,
crouching defiantly in wait for pursu-
ing officers. In the fastness of the
Ozark hills, he was shot from behind as
a posse approached the place where he
lay in hiding.

J. C. Howard, who fired the fatal shot,
was the only white man among the six
liberated by Slaughter in a spectacular
escape from the prison.

"I left the prison with the intention
of getting him the first chance I got,"
was Howard's only explanation.

Tom Slaughter left behind him a
crime record that dates back to his early
youth. He was born 27 years ago at
Dallas, Tex., and was reared in Southern
Arkansas. When 14 years old he was
convicted of grand larceny and sentenced
to the Arkansas Reformatory School.

Began First Prison Term at 14.

Slaughter served his term, then
drifted into Oklahoma. His operations
for the next few years consisted largely
of a series of motor car thefts through-
out Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. In
1916 he escaped from the Dallas, Tex.,
county jail, one of the largest and most
strongly built in the Southwest, liberat-
ing seven other prisoners at the same
time. He was arrested later in Okla-
homa and sent to the Texas peniten-
tiary, but escaped soon after. He was
arrested the second time and escaped again.

One of Slaughter's most spectacular
escapes was in March, 1918. With his
brother, Dave Slaughter, he was ar-
rested in Oklahoma and was being
taken to Dallas by two detectives in a
motor car. Stopping at a little town for
oil for the car, the detectives got out.
Slaughter leaped from the rear seat to
a postbox behind the wheel and sped
away, taking his brother with him.

Numerous bank robberies in Texas,
Oklahoma, Arkansas, southern Missouri
and southern Kansas in the next two
or three years were laid to Slaughter.
In 1917, while prisoner in the Kansas
Oklahoma, Slaughter held up the jailer and
escaped. He was recaptured and placed
in the Bartlesville, Okla., prison, where
he escaped three days later.

After another escape made from a
county jail near Louisville, Ky., where
Slaughter was being held on a bank
robbery charge.

Slaughter often boasted that he never
would go to the electric chair. With
Fulton (Kid) Green he was arrested
Oct. 29, 1920, near Cedarvale, Kan.,
where, it was charged, the two were
preparing to rob a bank. He was placed
in a jail at Sedan, Kan., for safe keep-
ing, and later was turned over to au-
thorities at Hot Springs, Ark., where he
was alleged to have killed Row Brown,
a deputy sheriff, in a gun battle Oct. 10.

Gets Arkansas Life Term.
After a trial lasting several days
Slaughter was convicted and sentenced
to a life term. While a prisoner at Hot
Springs, a conspiracy was hatched, in-
cluding a company of National Guardsmen,
had kept watch over the jail. After the
jury's verdict was announced, Slaughter
turned over to the guards a handful of
backpacks, remarking that if the sen-
tences had been death he never would
have remained in jail over night.

Last September Slaughter added an-
other chapter to his record when, while
in a sensational attempt to escape
from the Arkansas prison farm, he killed
one man and shot two others, al-
though he was accompanied by Tom Cop-
persmith, another guard. It was impos-
sible to slip the blanket between the bars so
while Veaslie handed it through the
open cell door Coppersmith held a re-
volver leveled at Slaughter.

Daring and Quick Action.
But the daring and quickness of the
desperado triumphed again. Whipping
out a revolver he commanded:

"Drop that gun, Tom Coppersmith, or
I'll kill you on the spot."

Coppersmith, stunned, lowered his
weapon. Slaughter disarmed both
guards.

Opening the door of the stockade
Slaughter called: "Who wants to go
with me?"

Six men, including Howard and five
prisoners, stepped forward. The remain-
der were locked in the cells.

A prison nurse appeared. Slaughter
pointed his revolver at him and ordered:
"Walk that way."

Crouching behind the nurse, with his
companions at his heels, Slaughter
forced the nurse to lead him to the
office of E. H. Dempsey, warden.
Awakening Dempsey, his wife, two
daughters and son, he forced them into
the death cell, where he locked them up.

Next he took charge of the kitchen.
He was perfectly calm during the en-
tire proceedings. Guards said he de-
clared a short time before he fled that
he "would like to kill Veaslie."

Slaughter led his companions to the
commissary where all selected outfits
of civilian clothes, changing from prison
garb. Before leaving he took a pot of
coffee, sugar, cream and cups to Mrs.
Dempsey and her two daughters, who
he had made prisoners, and assured them
no harm should come to them.

For five hours Slaughter ruled the
prison inclosure, after disarming all the
guards. So confident was he of his abil-
ity to manage the situation that he
waited three hours inside the walls
after the great gate that gives access to
the prison had been thrown open. But
none of the hundreds who passed on
Nineteenth street pike and noticed the
open gate became curious enough to in-
vestigate.

After supplying himself and party
with a store of food to last several days,
Slaughter brought Warden Dempsey's
car from the garage. Waving a farewell
to the helpless guards, the seven sped
out the gate and into the darkness.

Warden Dempsey heard the motor car
leave the prison. He directed convicts
above him to cut a hole in the ceiling of
the death cell and look down upon the
fugitives. He then called the fire de-
partment to the office and sent the alarm. Soon
several possses were scouring the hills
about Little Rock in every direction.

The first reports from these fugitives
came about two hours later when the
warden was informed that the city
marshal at Benton, Ark., a few miles
away, had fired on a carload of men
spreading panic in the woods. The
car was returned, indicating all the party
were heavily armed.

Posses Soon Out on Trail.
"Tom Slaughter is out again,"
When that message was flashed to
police officers of neighboring towns and
counties possses began forming almost
immediately.

One of these possses was led by J. J.
Crow, Sheriff of Saline county. It fol-
lowed the trail of the escaped prisoners to
a heavy forest about fourteen miles
northwest of Benton. A deserted motor
car at the roadside indicated that the
occupants had taken to the woods.

After penetrating the woods for some
distance the posse met Howard and two
of the negro fugitives. Howard told
Sheriff Crow he had killed Slaughter
when it became apparent the posse
would capture them.

"Slaughter forced me to go with him
from the prison," Howard related. "I
left a note telling Warden Dempsey I
would get him the first chance I got and
return to the prison. My opportunity
came and I seized it."

Howard then shot Slaughter from
behind while the "killer" lay on the
ground, revolver loaded, waiting for the
first member of the posse to appear in
the darkness.

As Howard expressed at first as the
truth of Howard's story. But the posse
returned to Benton because it was too
dark in the woods to search for the
fugitives. The bodies of the two negroes
remained there, one of whom was
said to have been wounded by the
Benton marshal in the running fight
through that town, made their escape.

Charge Against Bandit's Killer.
A charge of first degree murder was
filed against Howard.

At the request of Slaughter's wife,
who lived in the Benton, Ark., the body
was taken to Little Rock. In a cem-
etery near there a flower-covered coffin
containing all that is mortal of the de-
serted criminal was buried. Of the
dozens of floral decorations placed upon
his bier not one bore a card to identify
the donor. One florist reported an an-
onymous order for \$250 worth of flowers
and the florist to pay for them was sent
by messenger.

With the desperado's body was buried
the secret of the hiding place of foot
loose in the Southwest. Slaughter was
in his many bank robberies throughout
the Southwest. Included were securities
said to be valued at \$102,500, which A. W.
Mills, insurance agent of Pine Bluff,
Ark., was said to have in a motor car
somewhere in northern Texas.

Soon after Slaughter's imprisonment
for the Brown murder he professed re-
pentance and was released from the
Arkansas penitentiary. He was sent to
Little Rock. The minister told him he would
have to return the money to the banks
from which he took it. Mills was in-
structed to obtain from Slaughter the
information of the hiding place of the
money. He was told to have him come
to have met the prisoner September 20,
but two days before that Slaughter tried
to shoot his way to freedom and killed
one of the prison guards.

After Slaughter was sentenced to the
electric chair for this killing he again
told the minister he wanted to have
the money recovered. He insisted upon
being taken to the bank. He was in-
formed that the only way he could go
to his death with a clear conscience was
to have it returned to its owners. It was
arranged again for Mills to meet
the bandit and deliver the money. This
he was intending to do the day
following Slaughter's escape.

SIX MORE ARE CURED
OF LEPROSY IN HAWAII
Respond to Chaulmoogra Oil
Specific.

HONOLULU, T. H., Nov. 23.—Six more
patients at the Kalaiki Hospital here
have sung "The Song of the Freed
Lepers" and have been placed on parole
from treatment as the result of having
the ailment checked in their cases by
the use of the chaulmoogra oil specific
evolved by Dr. A. L. Dean, president
of the University of Hawaii.

Parole of the patients was granted by
the territorial Board of Health on
recommendations of a committee com-
posed of three physicians expert in the
treatment of leprosy. The patients, al-
lowed their freedom because they are
not considered a menace to persons with
whom they come in contact and because
they are to all intents and purposes
cured, must report, however, to the
hospital at stated periods for examina-
tion in order that the records may be
continued and that any recurrence of
the disease may be checked.

DEFEATS HER BROTHER
FOR MAYOR OF TOWN

And High School Teacher Did
Not Want Post.

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 16.—Miss Stein
Scorup, a high school English teacher,
who recently defeated her brother, P. C.
Scorup, for the post of Mayor of Salina,
Utah, declared she intends to advocate
good roads and an improved water sys-
tem.

Then, too, Walter Jazcko Gallegher
did interesting things with his feet. Ed-
die Frankel bucked and winged, Charlie
Stewart expressed himself peddler, Mr.
and Mrs. James J. Lee, of the outsid-
ing, declared that the records may be
continued and that any recurrence of
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